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If physiological facts are taught to a large class, there are sure to be some in it whose impressionable natures are excited by too much plain speaking, while there are others who need the most open teaching in order to gain any benefit. Talks to a few persons generally are wiser than popular lectures. Especially are talks needed by mothers and the unmothered girls who come from everywhere to the city.

The second method of encouraging purity is by organization, such as reformatory homes like Magdalen and other disagreeably labelled houses; indirectly preventive organizations for working girls, like Christian Associations, Friendly Societies, clubs, etc.; and the direct and educating-by-teaching work of the White Cross and Moral Education Associations and the social purity work of the Temperance Unions. Happily those whose clear insight takes purity as nature's open law need no discourse save that of reverence, for to them purity is the mystic revelation of peace and love.

It is not women alone who require the shelter of organizations and instruction, but boys and young men. There is no double standard of morality, though the methods of advocating it depend upon the sex which is to be instructed. Men are more concerned with the practical bases of morality than with its sentiment, and with the pecuniary aspects of domestic life than with its physical and mental suffering. We all may need pharmacopœia for moral ills, yet the very intangibility of purity makes us slow to formulate rules for its growth. Under the guidance of the wise in spirit and knowledge, much can be done to create a higher standard of marriage and to proportion the number of births according to the health and income of parents. If the home exists primarily for the sake of the individual, it exists secondarily for the sake of the state. Therefore, any home into which are continually born the inefficient children of inefficient parents, not only is a discomfort in itself, but it also furnishes members for the armies of the unemployed, which are tinkering and hindering legislation and demanding by the brute force of numbers that the state shall support them.

KATE GANNETT WELLS.

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### THE LATE PRESIDENT CARNOT.

"ALL that I possess of strength and devotedness belongs to my country." Those words are from a message of the late Marie François Sadi Carnot, communicated to the Chamber of Deputies nine days after his election to the office of President of the French Republic.

The blameless victim of the latest political assassination came very near being an ideal executive head of a great nation. He had many essential qualities which especially fitted him for the time and place. To his lot equally with that of either of his predecessors, fell the labor of moulding into form, out of fractious political factions, a homogeneous national spirit which would consider the interests of country superior to those of party. In the performance of this undertaking he encountered, from the first, the opposition of embittered factions incited by petty jealousies, and often sustained by impure personal motives of the most sinister and unpatriotic nature. Measures of importance to the welfare of the nation presented for the consideration of the representatives of the people, were often defeated to gratify the petty spite of a disaffected cabal. These frequent defeats of government propositions compelled the President to witness a procession of coming and

going cabinets, which disappeared from view like scenes upon the canvas of a moving panorama.

He was often censured for not being more of a leader, and for not attempting to control the ever-recurring factional vagaries which made their appearance in the Chamber of Deputies. But in spite of advice, opposition, and adverse criticism from many quarters, he remained to the end of his career the strictly constitutional head of the government. Republican to the core, in the best sense of the word, he ever acknowledged the will of the people as supreme, and, when expressed through their chosen representatives, unhesitatingly yielded his official obedience to their commands. In rendering this implicit obedience to what he considered to be the supreme national authority over him expressing the will of the people, he carried out his preconceived ideas of official duty, and escaped accusations of any attempt at usurpation of powers which, if opportunities had presented themselves, the enemies of his administration would have made. In his quiet way he succeeded in exercising an amount of influence in the interest of good government that has never been appreciated, and, probably, will never be known. When necessary he never hesitated to efface self, but when he had a clearly defined constitutional right as the executive, he acted promptly, and, usually, with sound sagacity. It may be said of President Carnot that he was in no respect great, in the popular acceptation of that term, but he was strong in many directions, abounding in good faith, and true in all things. He was never found wanting, and never wanted without being found. He possessed a lofty and perfectly patriotic sense of his great responsibilities, and was untiring in his complete devotion to public duties.

He was never accused of being a politician of the professional stamp. Having by his election to the Presidency reached the summit of his ambition, he banished all thoughts of continuing in office after the expiration of his presidential term. His only ambition was to administer the duties of his great trust purely, and for the good of his country.

The Palace of the Elysée, while it was the official residence of the chief of the nation, was, also, first and above all, the pleasant family home. Its domesticity was everywhere apparent, its moral atmosphere was perfect, and under the guidance of the good and accomplished wife of the President, it became the living centre of a great charitable movement of far-reaching influence. Those who experienced the later hospitality of the Elysée could not help being impressed with the unaffected cordial simplicity and perfect breeding with which they were received and entertained. Possibly, never before were official functions incident to a great office so beautifully toned to the pitch of a homely welcome. The whole *entourage* was in perfect keeping with the man and woman. Both were free from any appearance of pride, arrogance, or ostentation. The atmosphere around them was as sweet and pure as though born of spring flowers.

In the assassination of President Carnot we behold a new kind of martyrdom. The fiends of misrule abroad with murder for their watchword, and it will not be their fault if the close of the nineteenth century does not witness a repetition of the scenes of the sixteenth century, St. Bartholemew's Day, and those of the eighteenth century's Reign of Terror.

RUSH C. HAWKINS,